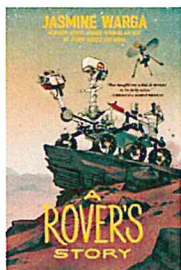
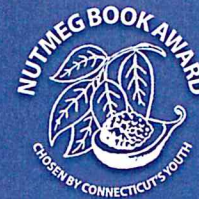




2025 Nutmeg Book Award Intermediate Nominees Grades 4-6



A ROVER'S STORY

by Jasmine Warga

A heart-warming tale of a Mars rover that will leave you rooting for him from beginning to end. Res is built to explore Mars, but his artificial intelligence can perceive human emotions. He wants to succeed for his creators. Will he be able to complete the mission while battling storms and difficult terrain?

CHESTER KEENE CRACKS THE CODE

by Kekla Magoon

Chester and his friend Skye follow mysterious clues on a scavenger hunt that Chester thinks is a test from his father. He is convinced that his absent father is a spy on covert missions. Skye thinks it's all a game until they discover a heist in progress. Will they be able to crack the code in time to stop a crime?



COOKIES & MILK

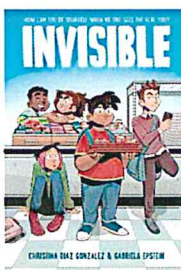
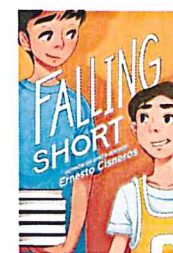
by Shawn Amos, art by Robert Paul

When Ellis' dad gets an idea to open a bakery selling nothing but his delicious cookies, Ellis realizes he will not have the fun summer he had planned. Nothing goes as it should and soon it all seems to be falling apart. Will they even make it to the grand opening?

FALLING SHORT

by Ernesto Cisneros

Isaac is the star basketball player. His best friend Marco is a straight-A student. Isaac wants to bring his grades up so that his parents stop arguing, and Marco wants to join the basketball team to make Dad happy. Can they team up to keep each other from falling short?



INVISIBLE

by Christina Diaz Gonzalez,

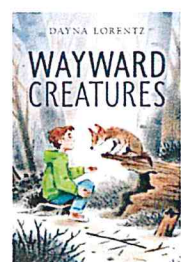
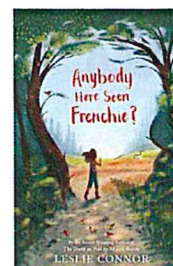
art by Gabriela Epstein

After getting in trouble, five students have to complete community service. At first, they appear to be as different as could be: the brain, the loner, the tough kid, the jock, and the rich kid. But when a community member needs help, the group unites to accomplish something truly important.

ANYBODY HERE SEEN FRENCHIE?

by Leslie Connor

Frenchie Livernois doesn't talk. He is on the autism spectrum. Aurora Petrequin is his best friend, and she talks enough for both of them. They both feel most comfortable in the woods of coastal Maine. One morning Frenchie doesn't make it to class even though they were dropped off at school together. Where did Frenchie go?



WAYWARD CREATURES

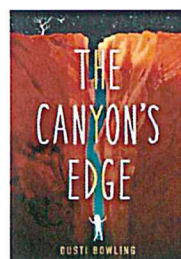
by Dayna Lorentz

Gabe didn't mean to start a forest fire; he just wanted to get his friends' attention by setting off a firework. But the damage is done, and Gabe must make it right. Rill, a coyote caught in the flames, relies on Gabe's help. Can these two outsiders start fresh together?

LOKI: A BAD GOD'S GUIDE TO

BEING GOOD by Louie Stowell

After one prank too many, Loki is banished to Earth in the form of an 11-year-old boy with a truth-telling diary that he has to write in every day. Goody-goody Thor is sent with him to supervise. Can Loki make better decisions in a month's time or will he have to spend eternity in a snakepit?



THE CANYON'S EDGE

by Dusti Bowling

Any type of loss is difficult, but the loss of a mother and a wife is insurmountable. For Nora and her dad, exploring an Arizona canyon feels like a way to find peace after their loss. When a flash flood separates Nora from her dad, Nora must find her way through grief and isolation to survive.

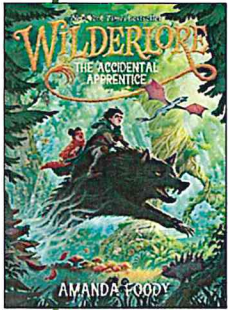
TUMBLE

by Celia C. Perez

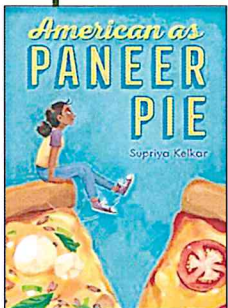
When her stepfather asks to adopt Addie, she starts to wonder about the father she has never met and never heard about. After she finds a photograph hidden in her mother's things, Addie starts investigating and her findings lead her to a new, big, professional wrestling family. Why did her mother keep this family a secret?



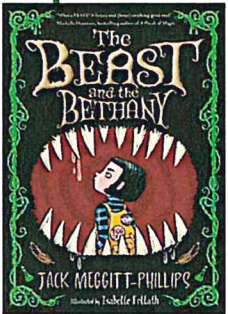
2024 Nutmeg Book Award Intermediate Nominees Grades 4-6



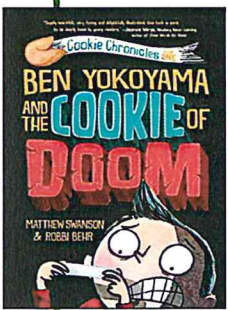
The Accidental Apprentice by Amanda Foody
Barclay is an apprentice to a local mushroom farmer. One of the rules in his town is to NEVER go in the woods. One day though, while searching for a mushroom, he becomes an apprentice to something even bigger than he thought, which alters his whole identity, and life itself.



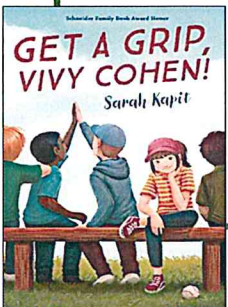
American as Paneer Pie by Supriya Kelkar
Lehka, a Desi girl, gets bullied a lot at school. She finds herself feeling alone and doesn't know how to do anything about it. But then, another Desi girl comes to town and shows Lehka how to stand up for herself!



The Beast and the Bethany by Jack Meggitt-Phillips, art by Isabelle Folath
Ebenezer Tweezer is a week away from his 512th birthday thanks to the beast in his house that keeps him alive (and looking so young)! But the beast needs to be fed, and this time, it is demanding a child. Will a terrible little girl like Bethany satisfy its hunger?



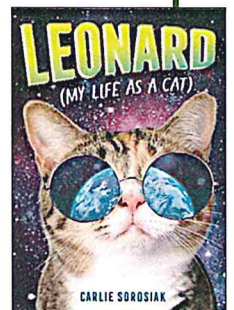
Ben Yokoyama and the Cookie of Doom by Matthew Swanson & Robbi Behr
After ordering Chinese food for the first time, eight-year-old, noodle-loving Ben Yokoyama receives an intriguing fortune cookie message. Can Ben and best friend Janet fulfill his fortune while avoiding his love of mischief?



Get a Grip Vivvy Cohen! by Sarah Kapit
Vivvy Cohen has perfected her knuckle ball. Now, she must convince her overprotective mother to let her join a real team. Told through a series of letters and emails between Vivvy and all-star VJ Capello; will Vivvy be able to prove once and for all what an amazing pitcher she is?

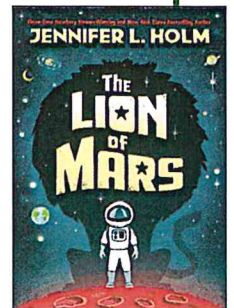
Leonard (My Life as a Cat) by Carlie Sorosiak

Leonard is an alien visiting earth...as a cat. Taken in by animal lover, Olive, he has 30 days to travel 2,000 miles to his rendezvous point, or he'll be stuck on Earth forever...as a cat. But after he grows close to Olive, is home with her or with his species?



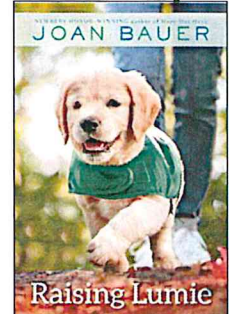
The Lion of Mars by Jennifer L. Holm

Life on Mars has a lot of rules, like 'Don't go beyond the compound.' Now all the adults are sick. When Bell and the other kids find a secret tunnel--leading to another colony--can they bend the rules and overcome the adults' distrust of others to find help and save themselves?



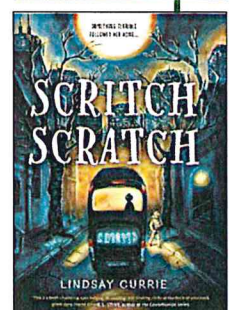
Raising Lumie by Joan Bauer

Moving to a new town with her older sister is enough of a challenge for Olive. Throw in training a sweet new puppy to be a seeing eye dog, and Olive has her hands full. How will she manage it all?



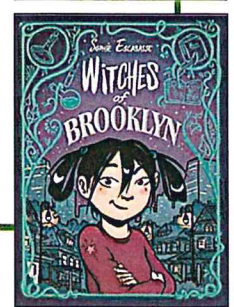
Scratch Scratch by Lindsay Currie

After Claire starts being haunted by a real ghost while helping her dad with his ghost tour business, she knows she needs to investigate! In her investigation, she learns about Chicago's history while also learning about a little boy, eerily similar to the ghost on the bus.

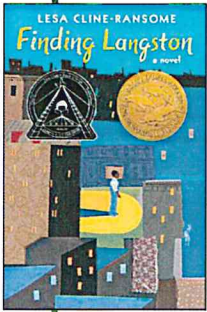


Witches of Brooklyn by Sophie Escabasse

When a famous star shows up at your house asking for help, you have to answer the door, right? But what happens when reality interrupts perception--it's witches to the rescue!



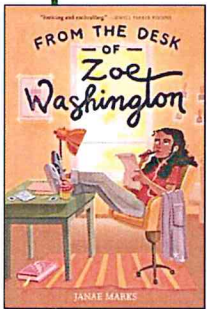
2023 Nutmeg Book Award Intermediate Nominees Grades 4-6



Finding Langston

by Lesa Cline-Ransome

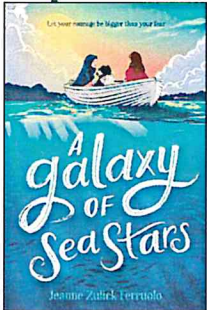
Langston's life has been upended. His mother died and his father moved them from rural Alabama to the city streets of Chicago. Bullied at school, Langston finds solace in the integrated public library where he discovers the poetry of his mother's favorite poet, Langston Hughes.



From the Desk of Zoe Washington

by Janae Marks

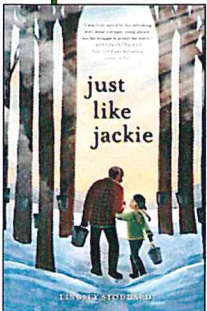
Zoe dreams of becoming a baking star, but her dreams take second place when she receives a letter from her imprisoned father, a man she has never met. The letter sets in motion her quest to find the truth and prove her father's innocence, while trying to create an original cupcake recipe.



A Galaxy of Sea Stars

by Jeanne Zúlick Ferruolo

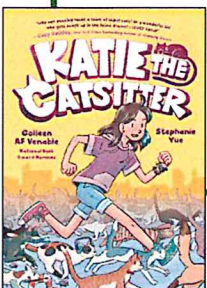
Izzy wishes things could go back to normal: her mom would come home, her dad wouldn't invite refugees from Afghanistan to live with them, and her best friends would never change. It turns out change can be a good thing and new friendships can be found in the most unlikely places!



Just Like Jackie

by Lindsey Stoddard

Robinson Hart tries to be like the man she is named after, Jackie Robinson, but it is almost impossible to keep it together at home and school. Caring for her Grandpa is becoming more difficult as his memory fades, and now she is stuck with her nemesis in group guidance.



Katie the Catsitter

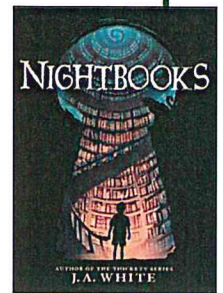
by Colleen AF Venable,
illustrated by Stephanie Yue

What was looking to be a boring summer turns into anything but when Katie takes on a job caring for her mysterious neighbor's cats. Shouldn't be that hard, right? But, it turns out there are 217 of them—and these are no ordinary cats!

Nightbooks

by J. A. White

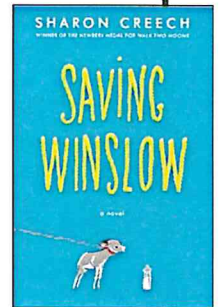
Alex is obsessed with anything scary. Then he gets trapped in a witch's world and must entertain her with a scary story every night. Working with another trapped child, they devise a plan to escape, but the house holds many of its own scary secrets.



Saving Winslow

by Sharon Creech

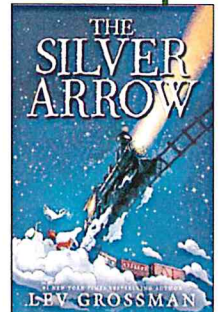
Louie's dad brings home an ailing baby donkey and he is determined to save him. Taking care of Winslow keeps his mind off of his brother Gus in the Army. Louie is determined to make sure this little donkey survives.



The Silver Arrow

by Lev Grossman

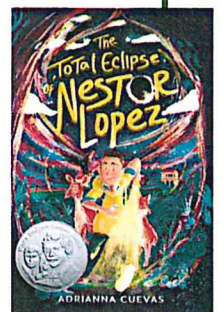
When Katie is surprised on her birthday with a real steam locomotive from her mysterious uncle, she has no idea of the adventures awaiting her and her brother. On a magical journey along with some talking animals, their resourcefulness helps them reach their destination, and might even help save the world!



The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez

by Adrianna Cuevas

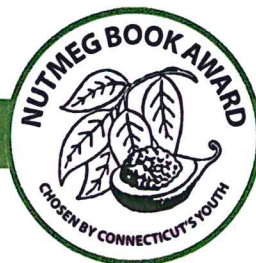
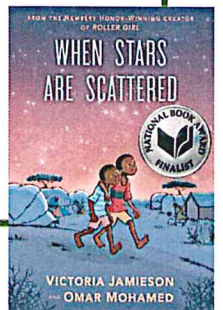
Nestor Lopez is a Cuban-American boy who can talk to animals. With his dad overseas, Nestor and his mom move in with his grandma. Animals start disappearing and his grandma is unfairly accused of being a tula vieja -- a witch! Nestor will have to use his powers and stop the real tula vieja before the solar eclipse.



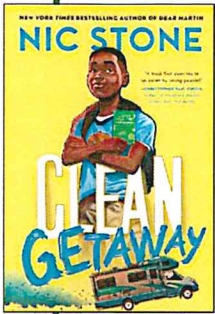
When Stars Are Scattered

by Victoria Jamieson &
Omar Mohamed

Omar and Hassan live in a refugee camp. Hassan is nonverbal and relies on Omar for everything. When Omar has the chance to attend school, he knows that it will change both of their lives. But to do this, Omar has to leave Hassan, his only remaining family, every day.



2022 Nutmeg Book Award Intermediate Nominees Grades 4-6



Clean Getaway

by *Nic Stone*

With Scoob in trouble at school and home, he is thrilled when G'ma asks him to take a road trip. G'ma's stories make him realize how different things used to be for someone who was Black. And why is G'ma dodging his dad's phone calls and changing license plates on the RV?

COG by Greg Van Eekhout

Cog is just like any other twelve-year-old boy—except his brain and body were created by a kind scientist who built him to learn. When his scientist caretaker goes missing, Cog embarks on a mission to find her and learns more than he expected along the way.

Emmy in the Key of Code

by *Aimee Lucido*

Emmy, 12, already feels out of place having been born to highly musical parents, while she struggles with stage fright. When Emmy connects with computer class and starts to learn coding she thinks she is finally finding her place in the world—but is it really as easy as do -re-mi?

Harbor Me

by *Jacqueline Woodson*

In a world full of differences, Haley, Esteban, Tiago, Holly, Amari, and Ashton find common bonds in the A.R.T.T. room (A Room To Talk). Every Friday at 2:00 they tell their stories and connect with each other for an hour without a teacher. What they say in the room, stays in the room.

Planet Earth is Blue

by *Nicole Panteleakos*

Nova thinks deeply about many things, especially outer space, but only her sister Bridget knows. Nova is on the autism spectrum, living with a new foster family, and Bridget has disappeared. She promised to be back in time for the 1986 Space Shuttle Challenger launch, so Nova counts down the days until the Shuttle launches and she can be with Bridget again.

The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise

by *Dan Gemeinhart*

Coyote Sunrise has an unusual life. She's home schooled in a bus while she travels all over the country with her dad. Coyote is content with her lot in life, but when she realizes that the park near her old home holding special memories is about to be destroyed, she strategizes a way to get there before it's too late.

Sal & Gabi Break the Universe

by *Carlos Hernandez*

Sal Vidon is new to school and has made an impression. He's been in the principal's office, and made enemies of both Gabi and Yasmany. Sal's magic isn't always appreciated. If the ability to reach through space and time can't make middle school smooth for Sal, maybe friendship could.

Sanity & Tallulah

by *Molly Brooks*

Sanity Jones and Tallulah Vega are best friends living on board the Wilnick Station. Tallulah's mom finds Sanity's secret and unauthorized science experiment, an adorable three-headed kitten named Princess Sparkle, Destroyer of Worlds. When Princess Sparkle goes missing and the space station begins experiencing technical problems, the girls try to find Princess Sparkle before it's too late.

Wink

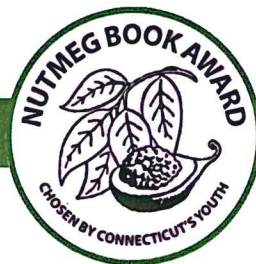
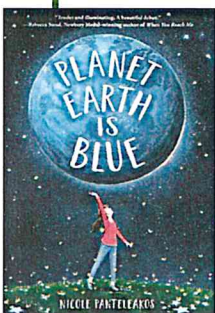
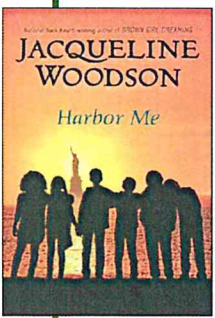
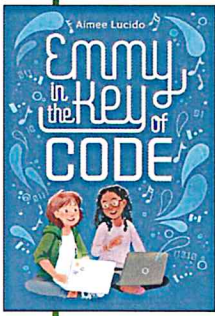
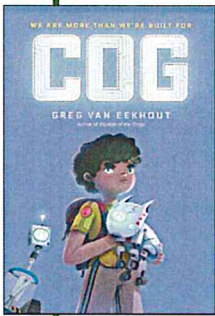
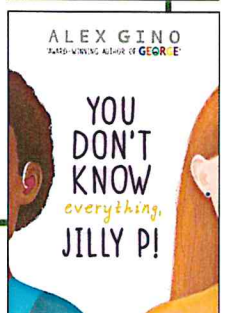
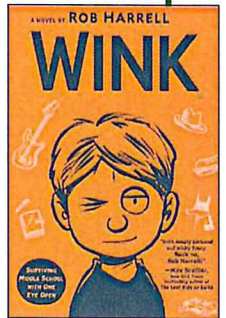
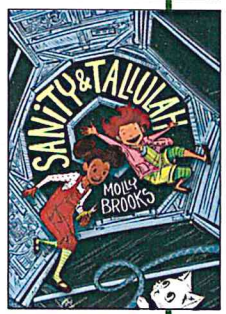
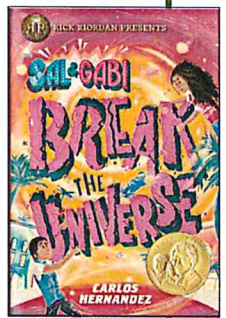
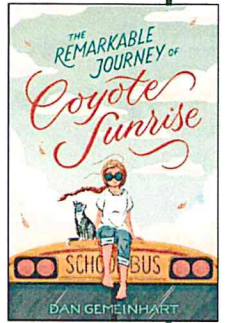
by *Rob Harrell*

Ross is diagnosed with a rare eye cancer in the summer before middle school. After surgery, radiation, a mandatory hat, and really sticky eye cream, can Ross find a way to fit in at school?

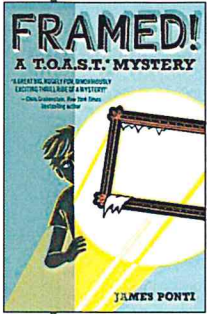
You Don't Know Everything Jilly Pi

by *Alex Gino*

When Jilly's baby sister is born deaf, Jilly connects with a deaf gamer in her online gaming community and discovers that the world does not always treat people the same way. She is hearing and White, her sister is deaf and White, and her new friend is deaf and Black.



2021 Nutmeg Book Award Intermediate Nominees Grades 4-6

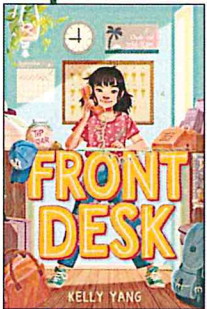


Framed! by James Ponti

Florian Bates has a Theory of All Small Things (T.O.A.S.T.) which helps him navigate through a new school and life. When he explains his theory to Margaret and then shows her how it works in an art museum, they uncover a BIG mystery. Things get really exciting!

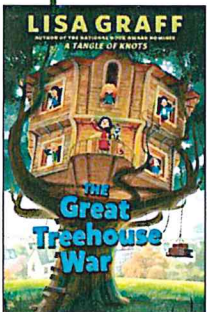
Front Desk by Kelly Yang

Mia Tang's family has moved from China to California in hopes of a better life. When they start to manage the Calivista Motel, Mia gets to run the front desk but soon gets into trouble with the cruel owner. It will take Mia's plucky perseverance to help the hotel guests and her family while trying to reach her dreams.



The Great Treehouse War by Lisa Graff

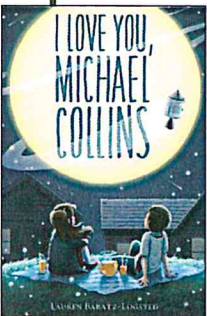
After Winnie's life falls apart due to her parents' divorce, she decides the only solution is to move into a treehouse between her parents' houses and stay there until they will listen to her. When her friends move in, there are demands from ten different children and ten sets parents all determined to bring this arrangement to an end!



I Love You, Michael Collins

by Lauren Baratz-Logsted

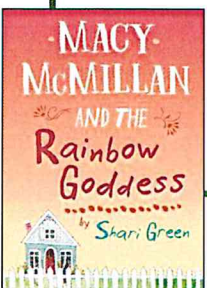
It's 1969 and the world is awaiting the launch of Apollo 11. Mamie's class is writing letters to the three astronauts aboard Apollo 11. She alone chooses to write to Michael Collins who will orbit the moon while Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walk on it. What should she say? What should she do?



Macy McMillan and the Rainbow Goddess

by Shari Green

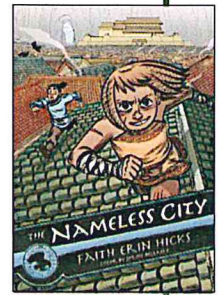
Macy's life is turning upside-down! Her mother is getting married and her home is up for sale. Macy is sent next door to help an elderly neighbor who is also moving. Despite Macy's deafness, she and the "Rainbow Goddess" learn to communicate and even discover a shared love of stories and cookies.



The Nameless City

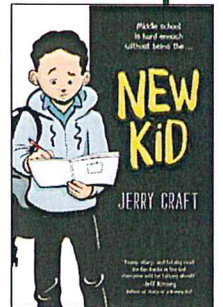
by Faith Erin Hicks

Kaidu and Rat both live in the Nameless City, but they come from different cultures. Kaidu is the privileged son of the current conquerors and Rat is a street-wise native of the city. Their unlikely friendship might be just what the fragile peace of the Nameless City needs to survive.



New Kid by Jerry Craft

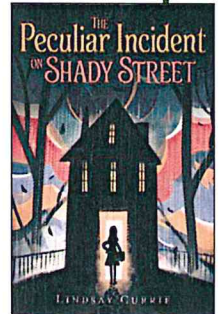
Jordan Banks' parents send him to an elite school far from his neighborhood in the city. Now he feels like he is living two lives and not fitting in with either. What will it take for Jordan to feel welcome with old friends and new classmates?



The Peculiar Incident on Shady Street

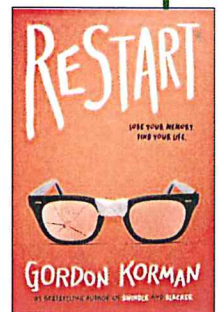
by Lindsay Currie

It is bad enough Tessa Woodward had to say goodbye to the beach and her best friend and move to cold, chilly Chicago with her family, but then unexplained things start happening in her new house. Lights flicker on and off, doors slam and her little brother's creepy ventriloquist doll starts crying real tears. With the help of her new friends, Tessa soon starts to unravel the mystery of what happened in the house on Shady Street.



Restart by Gordon Korman

Chase can't remember anything! ANYTHING! Not his name, not his mother, not his friends. When he goes back to school, some people treat him like a king and some run the other way. Who was Chase before the accident? Is this a chance to restart his life and be a better person?



We're Not From Here

by Geoff Rodkey

Earth is destroyed, Mars is running out of food and Planet Choom has invited humans to live on their planet. After travelling for 20 years to reach Choom, humans are no longer welcome. One family is chosen to represent the human race. Can they convince the species of Choom that humans are peaceful so they can stay?

